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COUNTY BOROUGH



OF SOUTHPORT.

REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

County Borough of Southport

For the Year 1945

*(including the Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the
School Medical Officer).*

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1945

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1945.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the civilian population for the year was 81,360, as compared with 82,860 in the previous year. The crude death rate for the year was 15.68 per 1,000 of the population, a figure which is slightly less than in 1944. Using the existing factor of correction for age and sex the corrected death rate for 1945 was 12.38 per 1,000 of the population.

The infantile death rate for the year was 28 per 1,000 births. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in the borough, the rate for the previous year being 44.

The fact that such a low rate has occurred indicates the possibilities in this respect. That such a rate, and even lower rates, are possible must be an incentive to those who have the task of deciding on the future policy as it applies to the Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The Zymotic death rate was again low, being 0.086 per 1,000 as compared with an average for the preceding ten years of 0.11.

Only five cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year as compared with ten in the previous twelve months.

The state of immunisation of the children was as high as 93% of the school children and 45% of children under five years of age. This was an improvement on the figures for 1944.

The initial steps were taken to enlarge the School Medical Services in relation to the terms of the Education Act and arrangements on these lines are continuing.

Altogether the results obtained by the various sections of the department can be regarded as satisfactory.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. E. FITZGERALD,
Medical Officer of Health.



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Part 1.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM

AND

VITAL STATISTICS

STATISTICAL MEMORANDUM

Area of Borough (including Foreshore, 18,333 acres)	9,426 acres
Population (1931 Census)	78,927
Do. (Estimated by the Registrar-General), middle of 1945.....	81,360
Density of Population	8.632
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1945	23,604
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1945	£971,805
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,864
Number of births registered.....	1,018
Legitimate	906
Illegitimate	112
Net birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)	12.51
Average birth rate, preceding ten years	11.10
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	29
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	28
Legitimate	27
Illegitimate	35
Average Infantile Mortality Rate, preceding ten years	50
Number of deaths registered	1,300
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	15.68
Average crude death rate, preceding ten years	15.66
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	12.38
Number of deaths from tuberculosis (all forms)	41
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	0.50
Average tuberculosis death rate (preceding ten years)	0.489
Number of deaths from Zymotic disease	7
Death rate from Zymotic diseases (per 1,000 of the population)	0.086
Average death rate from Zymotic diseases (preceding ten years)	0.11
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth—	
From Sepsis	1
From other causes	3
Number of persons in receipt of out-door relief—	
(a) On 1st January, 1946	255
(b) On 1st January, 1945	235
Total grants in the way of Poor Law Relief, 31/3/45	£6,809
Total grants in the way of Poor Law Relief, 31/3/44	£7,222
Number of blind persons on the register (31st December, 1945)	137
Average domestic consumption of water per head, per day	27.73 galls.
Total consumption of water per head, per day	36.77 galls.
Rainfall during 1945	29.46
Hours of sunshine during 1945	1,508

VITAL STATISTICS

Population.—The population at the census of 1931 was 78,927. The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the middle of 1945 is 81,360. The comparable figure for the middle of 1944 was 82,860.

Birth Rate.—The total number of live births registered in the Borough during 1945 was 1,108. Of these 536 were males and 482 females. The birth rate for the year was 12·51 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population. 112 (11%) of the births were illegitimate.

The number of stillbirths registered was 40, and represents a rate of 0·49 per 1,000 of the civilian population, as compared with the rate of 0·46 for England and Wales.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths occurring amongst the residents of the town was 1,300 (561 males and 739 females). The crude death rate for the year was 15·68 per 1,000 of the civilian population. 32% of the deaths occurred in respect of persons aged 75 years and over.

Principal Causes of Death.—

Tuberculosis (all forms)	41
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	173
Cancer	183
Heart Disease	415
Respiratory Diseases	111
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	42
Violence, including Suicide	39

Deaths from Violence.—There were six deaths from suicide and of the remainder deaths, were due to the following causes:—

Road Accidents	10
Drowning	1
Falls	11
Poisoning (Carbon-monoxide)	3
Burns	5
Miscellaneous Causes	3

Zymotic Death Rate.—

Diphtheria	Nil	Typhoid	1	Diarrhoea	3
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Measles	1	Whooping Cough	2
Total deaths 7.		Rate per 1,000 of the population 0·08.			

Infantile Mortality Rate.—

Total Deaths	29	Rate per 1,000 births	28
Legitimate	25	do.	27
Illegitimate	4	do.	35

TABLE 1. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1945 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN DISTRICT Z		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS §		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Uncorrected Number 3	Net		Number x 6	Rate 7	of Non-residents regist'd in the District 8	of Residents not regist'd in the District 9	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number 4	Rate 5					Number x 10	Rate per 1,000 Net Births 11	Number x 12	Rate 13
1923	72,410	1012	996	13·76	940	12·98	69	106	65	65	977	13·49
1924	73,650	952	934	12·90	977	13·24	78	109	59	63	1006	13·66
1925	74,260	988	973	13·10	880	11·85	56	118	59	61	937	12·62
1926	77,970	942	928	11·90	878	11·26	72	124	58	62	930	11·93
1927	78,670	973	958	12·18	1002	12·64	64	130	46	48	1067	13·56
1928	79,290	959	957	11·54	1002	12·64	72	132	69	75	1044	13·17
1929	80,040	929	896	11·07	1073	13·41	86	179	65	73	1146	14·32
1930	80,700	921	890	11·03	1035	12·82	72	165	66	74	1101	13·64
1931	77,280	877	824	10·66	1062	13·74	67	185	56	68	1157	14·97
1932	78,770	915	886	11·25	1019	12·94	68	150	40	45	1079	13·70
1933	78,980	805	769	9·51	1128	14·28	73	157	44	57	1189	15·05
1934	79,100	918	860	10·87	998	12·62	61	153	40	46	1070	13·53
1935	79,300	872	808	10·19	1104	13·92	63	143	52	64	1161	14·64
1936	79,280	880	804	10·14	1105	13·94	81	182	41	51	1189	15·00
1937	78,960	914	837	10·60	1143	14·48	63	205	56	67	1266	16·03
1938	78,600	870	802	10·20	1157	14·65	84	159	56	70	1215	15·46
1939	*78,900 *81,840	925	752	9·53	1271	15·53	101	168	41	52	1338	16·34
1940	88,550	1147	871	9·84	1385	15·64	115	148	40	43	1418	16·01
1941	95,410	1455	949	9·94	1375	15·53	171	211	65	68	1415	14·83
1942	90,480	1371	1075	11·90	1213	13·41	108	218	41	38	1323	14·62
1943	85,140	1283	1048	12·30	1237	14·53	73	246	49	47	1410	16·60
1944	82,860	1484	1168	14·09	1150	13·88	87	241	52	44	1304	15·73
1945	81,360	1314	1018	12·51	1121	13·73	62	241	29	28	1300	15·98

* 78,900 for Birth Rate · 81,840 for Death Rate.

Z Including deaths in the Borough Isolation Hospital in the West Lancashire Rural District.

x In Column 6 are included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district, military deaths excepted.

In Column 12 is entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8 and by the addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

§ "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales die in a district other than that in which they resided.

The following Special Cases arise as to Transferable Deaths :—

(1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses and nursing homes (but not almshouses) have been regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission the death is not transferable.

(2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement have been referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.

(3) Deaths from violence have been referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule ; (b) if this district is unknown, or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known ; (c) failing this, to the district where the death occurred, if known ; and (d) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

	1911	Census 1921	1931
Total population at all ages	69,643	71,900	78,927
Number of inhabited houses	15,676	16,314	20,388
Average number of persons per house	4·44	4·41	3·87
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	9,426	9,426	9,426

TABLE II.

Showing the total number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Borough, and the Deaths resulting therefrom, during the last 10 years (1936-1945)
It includes the Deaths which occurred both in the Borough, and in the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital (outside the Borough)

	NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED										Total Cases for 10 years 1936-1945	DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE										Total Deaths during 10 years 1936 to 1945	Case Mortality (of all cases) in Borough and Borough Hosp. for 10 years 1936-1945
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945		
Scarlet Fever	265	209	208	176	150	381	117	151	140	93	1890	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	6	0.32%	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	14	81	143	151	61	234	101	34	10	5	834	—	6	5	8	1	6	1	—	—	32	3.83%	
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	33.33%	
Para-typhoid Fever	1	—	1	—	—	28	2	1	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	21	26	42	30	24	35	24	25	28	26	281	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.36%	
Puerperal Fever	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	6	85.71%	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	7	7	9	11	12	25	10	5	10	100	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	4	4.00%	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	2	9	36	13	1	1	4	66	—	—	—	—	4	2	1	1	2	12	18.19%	
Polio myelitis	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	47	57	50	37	36	56	74	52	63	69	541	33	33	25	40	24	38	37	43	27	36	336	62.10%
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	28	13	24	34	36	31	28	51	26	26	297	8	8	9	7	9	7	9	6	5	77	25.92%	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	5	2	4	3	—	1	2	2	3	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox*	406	300	318	368	774	564	676	414	326	274	4420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles*	327	1148	231	155	1164	780	1091	742	741	546	6925	1	2	1	2	1	—	3	2	1	16	0.23%	
German Measles	112	93	20	131	1538	748	122	157	230	52	3203	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough*	406	134	166	186	636	531	160	368	301	278	3166	5	1	—	1	1	3	—	4	1	2	18	0.57%

The following additional notifications were received during 1945 :—Pneumonia (all forms) 81 ; Bacillary Dysentery 20 ; Malaria 27 : Polio Encephalitis 2.

* Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough were made Compulsorily notifiable in Southport in May, 1902, and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Poliomyelitis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum in February, 1912.
Measles, German Measles and Whooping Cough :—Only the first case in a house in two months is notifiable.

TABLE IIIa.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Year	Popu- lation	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Cor- rected for Age and Sex	Under One Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Legiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Births	Illegiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Births	Pulm'ry Tuber- culosis	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Other Forms T.B.	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation
1928	79290	458	586	1044	13.17	11.17	69	75	61	71	8	140	39	0.49	10	0.13	16	0.20
1929	80040	533	613	1146	14.32	12.14	65	72	57	68	8	148	44	0.55	7	0.09	14	0.17
1930	80700	468	633	1101	13.64	11.56	66	74	52	63	14	222	60	0.74	9	0.11	19	0.24
1931	77280	510	647	1157	14.97	12.69	56	68	53	68	3	55	40	0.52	9	0.12	16	0.21
1932	78770	495	584	1079	13.70	11.62	40	45	35	42	5	79	33	0.42	7	0.09	8	0.10
1933	78980	517	672	1189	15.05	12.76	44	57	38	53	6	115	40	0.51	9	0.11	7	0.09
1934	79100	481	589	1070	13.53	11.23	40	46	37	45	3	79	38	0.48	9	0.11	11	0.14
1935	79300	500	661	1161	14.64	12.15	52	64	51	68	1	18	31	0.39	4	0.05	9	0.11
1936	79280	557	632	1189	15.00	12.45	41	51	37	49	4	68	33	0.42	8	0.10	9	0.11
1937	78960	566	700	1266	16.03	13.30	56	67	50	64	6	120	33	0.42	8	0.10	16	0.20
1938	78600	565	650	1215	15.46	12.83	56	70	49	65	7	132	25	0.32	9	0.11	11	0.14
1939	81840	606	732	1338	16.34	13.56	41	52	37	47	4	70	40	0.49	7	0.09	17	0.21
1940	88550	608	810	1418	16.01	12.65	40	43	33	38	7	121	24	0.27	9	0.10	3	0.03
1941	95410	641	774	1415	14.8	11.69	65	68	58	54	7	115	38	0.40	7	0.07	9	0.09
1942	90480	584	739	1323	14.6	12.11	41	38	36	36	5	75	37	0.41	9	0.10	8	0.09
1943	85140	619	791	1410	16.6	13.77	49	47	43	45	6	67	43	0.50	9	0.10	8	0.09
1944	82860	565	739	1304	15.74	13.06	52	44	45	42	7	67	27	0.32	6	0.07	6	0.07
1945	81360	561	739	1300	15.68	12.38	29	28	25	27	4	35	36	0.44	5	0.06	7	0.08

TABLE IIIb.
BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS.

Year	Population	Males	Females	Total	Legiti- mate	Illegiti- mate	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Still Births
1928	79290	458	457	915	858	57	11.54	35
1929	80040	470	426	896	842	54	11.07	45
1930	80700	464	426	890	827	63	11.03	45
1931	77280	403	421	824	769	55	10.66	42
1932	78770	450	436	886	823	63	11.25	63
1933	78980	390	379	769	717	52	9.74	24
1934	79100	477	383	860	822	38	10.87	45
1935	79300	426	382	808	754	54	10.19	41
1936	79280	412	392	804	745	59	10.14	34
1937	78960	388	449	837	787	50	10.60	35
1938	78600	402	400	802	749	53	10.20	41
1939	78900	382	370	752	700	52	9.53	28
1940	88550	448	423	871	820	51	9.84	40
1941	95410	494	455	949	892	57	9.94	40
1942	90480	555	520	1075	1008	67	11.88	37
1943	85140	558	490	1048	958	90	12.3	35
1944	82860	590	578	1168	1065	103	14.09	30
1945	81360	536	482	1018	906	112	12.51	40

TABLE IIIc.
MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Year	No. of Live and Still Births	RATES PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS					
		Sepsis		Other Causes		Total	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1926	928*	—	—	5	5.39	5	5.39
1927	958*	—	—	4	4.18	4	4.18
1928	950	—	—	2	2.11	2	2.11
1929	941	—	—	4	4.25	4	4.25
1930	935	3	3.20	7	7.49	10	10.69
1931	866	1	1.15	4	4.62	5	5.77
1932	949	1	1.06	6	6.32	7	7.38
1933	793	—	—	3	3.78	3	3.78
1934	905	—	—	3	3.31	3	3.31
1935	849	1	1.18	3	3.53	4	4.71
1936	838	1	1.19	2	2.39	3	3.58
1937	872	2	2.29	2	2.29	4	4.58
1938	843	—	—	—	—	—	—
1939	780	2	2.44	1	1.22	3	3.66
1940	911	—	—	1	1.08	1	1.08
1941	989	1	0.88	2	1.77	3	2.65
1942	1112	1	0.90	2	1.80	3	2.70
1943	1083	—	—	1	0.92	1	0.92
1944	1198	—	—	2	1.67	2	1.67
1945	1058	1	0.95	3	2.83	4	3.78

* Live Births Only.

TABLE IV.—BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1945.

England and Wales—126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures, based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	Rate per 1,000 total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	5.6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	7.8	54
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931)	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.07	4.5	43
London	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	7.6	53
Southport	12.51	0.49	15.68	0.01	—	0.01	—	0.02	—	0.06	2.9	28

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows : per 1,000 Total Births

Puerperal Sepsis	0.24	Others	1.55	Total	1.79
Southport	0.95	“	2.83	“	3.78

TABLE V.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Totals all ages	SEX		AGE DISTRIBUTION											
				MALES						FEMALES					
		M.	F.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 up.	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	65 up.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	36	19	17	—	—	—	7	10	2	—	—	—	7	7	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	3	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
8. Syphilitic Disease	8	5	3	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
9. Influenza	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
10. Measles	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
11. Ac. Poliomyel and Polioenceph	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Ac. Inf. Enceph	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
13. Cancer of buc, cav and oesoph (m) uterus (f)	14	5	9	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	28	17	11	—	—	—	—	9	8	—	—	—	—	6	5
15. Cancer of breast	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	7
16. Cancer of all other sites	126	62	64	—	—	1	2	24	35	—	—	—	3	16	45
17. Diabetes	13	4	9	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	2	6
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	173	49	124	—	—	—	1	7	41	—	—	—	—	15	109
19. Heart diseases	415	180	235	—	—	—	4	42	134	—	—	—	4	28	203
20. Other dis. of cir. system	40	23	17	—	—	—	—	5	18	—	—	—	1	4	12
21. Bronchitis	67	32	35	1	—	1	2	11	17	—	—	—	2	2	31
22. Pneumonia	31	14	17	—	—	—	1	8	5	1	—	—	—	1	15
23. Other respiratory dis.	13	9	4	—	—	—	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	10	8	2	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	10	6	4	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
27. Other digvc. diseases	27	11	16	—	—	—	1	6	4	—	—	—	3	2	11
28. Nephritis	42	16	26	—	—	—	1	4	11	—	—	—	4	3	19
29. Puer. and post-abort. Sepsis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
31. Premature Birth	9	7	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
32. Con. mal., birth inj., infant diseases	8	5	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
33. Suicide	6	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	10	6	4	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
35. Other violent causes	23	8	15	1	—	—	1	1	5	1	—	—	2	1	11
36. All other causes	151	64	87	3	1	2	4	11	43	1	—	3	5	11	67
TOTALS	1300	561	739	18	3	8	33	159	340	11	3	4	45	111	565

Part II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE AREA

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff.—The staff of the Public Health Department has varied throughout the year and three temporary clerks have been employed to replace members of the permanent staff who are still serving in H.M. Forces. The medical staff has remained the same during the year.

A special report on the clerical staff for the Department was considered by the Committee at the end of 1945, and full details of the approved establishment will be shown in the Report for 1946.

Laboratory Facilities.—The same arrangements as hitherto have continued. Specimens for pathological examinations are sent to the Laboratory at the Southport Infirmary and the bacteriological examination of the milk and water supplies of the County Borough have been carried out by arrangement with the Thompson-Yates Laboratories at the Liverpool University. Samples of Foods and Drugs requiring bacteriological examination are also sent to the latter laboratory and samples for chemical analysis are sent to the City Analyst, of Liverpool, who also holds the position of Public Analyst for Southport.

HOSPITAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulance Facilities.—The Corporation has continued the service for the removal of cases of infectious disease. The ambulance driver and his assistant were both called to the Forces, and since then the posts have been filled by temporary drivers who are not resident at the hospital. Despite many difficulties the service has continued in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

Borough Ambulance Service.—Following the disbandment of the Civil Defence Service in June, 1945, the Health Committee assumed responsibility for the borough ambulance service and an ambulance officer and ten drivers were appointed for the work. At the end of the year the depot was transferred from Hoghton Street to the Fire Station at Manchester Road.

During 1945 the service dealt with 752 cases, as follows:—

384 Accident Cases.

267 Maternity and Sickness cases.

101 Military cases for the Emergency Hospital.

The work of the service has consistently been carried out in a prompt and efficient manner and at no time during the period has any complaint been made.

Nursing in the Home.—This service is provided by the local Southport and Birkdale District Nursing Association. The staff at present consists of eight nurses and a matron-in-charge. The Association receives a grant of £200 per annum from the Southport Corporation. The work of the Association is of the greatest value to the community and home-nursing must always continue to be an important part of any medical services which may develop on national lines. The Association deserves the whole-hearted support of the residents in the County Borough.

Domestic Help Service.—Early in 1945 the Ministry of Health asked local authorities to organise a scheme for providing domestic helps to the following types of cases:—

- (a) where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
- (b) where the wife is suddenly called away to see her husband in hospital and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.

- (c) with elderly people who are infirm, or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
- (d) where several members are ill at the same time, e.g., during an influenza epidemic.

It was not possible to develop a satisfactory scheme in Southport, however, as considerable difficulty was experienced in finding suitable women to do this kind of work.

During the year 24 applications were received for domestic help and in 14 cases the assistance required was provided by the Department.

HOSPITALS, PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY

Southport Infirmary.—A general hospital service is provided by the Southport Infirmary, which in addition to out-patients' departments, contains accommodation for 156 bed-patients. The annual report of the Infirmary Board for the year 1945 shows that 2,577 persons received in-patient treatment at the Infirmary in that year; that 15,487 persons (of which 3,458 were accident emergency cases) attended the out-patient department, and altogether made 64,921 visits.

The Corporation has an arrangement with the Infirmary Board for the treatment of cases of surgical tuberculosis and during the year two patients were treated at the Infirmary under this scheme.

New Hall Hospital.—The hospital has accommodation for 102 beds in the Isolation wards, 32 of these beds being in the temporary buildings provided by the Ministry of Health. In addition there are 36 beds in the Sanatorium, 14 of which are in huts. A scheme for the replacement of these huts by a new ward block was approved by the Ministry of Health in 1939, but owing to the outbreak of war it was not possible to proceed with the work. Further accommodation is also required for the Nursing and Domestic Staff of the hospital and, as a temporary measure, the Ministry of Health have agreed that one of the temporary isolation wards be used by a number of the nurses.

Fleetwood Road Hospital.—This hospital is for the accommodation of aged and chronic sick persons and 65 beds are normally provided for this purpose.

Victoria Home.—In 1943 the Corporation purchased and equipped this home to provide an additional 25 beds for the care of female aged and chronic sick. The difficulty of providing accommodation in the Borough for this type of patient has thereby been relieved to a certain extent but the total number of beds provided is still insufficient to meet the demand. The procedure for admitting this class of patient to these hospitals remains unchanged, in the first instance they are admitted to the Ormskirk County Hospital and then transferred either to Fleetwood Road Hospital or Victoria Home as beds become vacant. A direct admission to Fleetwood Road Hospital or Victoria Home is only made when the patient is in such a condition of health as to make the longer journey to Ormskirk undesirable.

The Committee fully realise the necessity of providing further accommodation for this type of patient and attempts are being made to alleviate the difficulty.

Ormskirk County Hospital.—Under the County Borough of Southport's administrative scheme, 1937, the Health Committee took over the responsibility for arranging for the care and maintenance of all sick persons requiring relief in Public Assistance establishments. There was no Poor Law Hospital

in the County Borough and the arrangement with the Lancashire County Council to accept Southport cases at the County Hospital, Ormskirk, has been continued. The types of cases which come under the care of the Health Committee as a result of the administrative scheme are as follow:—

- (a) Persons suffering from sickness, accident, or bodily infirmity;
- (b) Persons suffering from mental infirmity—
 - (i) certified under the Lunacy or Mental Deficiency Acts;
 - (ii) not so certified.

Persons coming under categories (a) and (b) (ii) are cared for at the County Hospital, Ormskirk. Those under (b) (i) at institutions suitable for such persons in other parts of the country, the maintenance charges being paid for by the authority.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS

The Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital.—The accommodation provided at the hospital is 26 beds and, in addition, a four-bed ward is used as a nursery. During the year 541 patients were admitted as compared with 545 for 1944.

St. Katharine's Maternity Hospital.—During the period from 1941 to 1944 this home was administered by the Health Department, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, as an emergency lying-in hospital under the Evacuation Scheme. Early in 1945, the Ministry of Health released the building and the Corporation then entered into an agreement with the St. Katharine's Home Committee for the use of the hospital for Southport maternity cases. This action was necessary as there has been a greater trend towards confinement in hospital rather than in the home during the last few years.

There are 15 beds at this hospital and 309 patients were admitted in 1945 as compared with 358 in the previous year.

The Red House Maternity Hospital, Ainsdale.—This house was originally requisitioned during the war by the Ministry of Health for use as an eleven-bed emergency lying-in hospital. In 1945 the hospital was used for the reception of cases from the three hostels for ex-Servicewomen, which had a total accommodation of 60 beds. Due to the decreased number of Ex-Servicewomen allocated to Southport the Ministry of Health closed the hospital at the end of the year. One of the hostels was also closed in November, 1945, thereby reducing the accommodation at the remaining two hostels to a total of 50 beds.

The following table shows the numbers of admissions to these hospitals during the past nine years:—

Year	<i>Christiana Hartley Hospital</i>		<i>St. Katharine's Hospital</i>		<i>The Red House Hospital</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>South-port</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>South-port</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>South-port</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>South-port</i>	<i>Others</i>
1937	347	—	48	—	—	—	395	—
1938	369	—	48	—	—	—	417	—
1939	427	39	—	—	—	—	427	39
1940	450	134	54	27	—	—	504	161
1941	450	241	65	167	19	20	534	428
1942	408	134	119	89	79	91	606	314
1943	368	100	158	72	107	62	633	234
1944	530	15	246	112	144	71	920	198
1945	496	45	248	61	62	110	806	216

The V.D. and Skin Hospital, Pilkington Road.—The hospital has eight beds for the treatment of Venereal diseases and 12 cots are provided for children who are suffering from diseases of the skin. In addition, a single ward is set apart for maternity cases who are under treatment for venereal disease at the time of confinement.

During the war the rooms on the ground floor were adapted for use as a first aid post but the premises have now been re-instated to their former use.

DAY NURSERIES

There are three day nurseries in the town:—

- (1) King Street Methodist Schools, opened 7th April, 1941 60 places.
- (2) Crossens Day Nursery, North Road, opened 5th October, 1942 40 places.
- (3) Bedford Park Day Nursery, opened 29th July, 1942 40 places.

These nurseries have been organised and run by the department on behalf of the Ministry of Health. They have been intended for the reception of the infants of mothers who were occupied in essential war work.

The following table shows the attendances at each nursery during the year 1945:—

<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
King St.	1132	1032	1161	1151	1144	1249	1216	1012	1007	1281	1152	1157	13694
Crossens	542	625	573	444	485	407	397	637	648	718	591	490	6557
Bedford Park	516	603	686	742	835	895	792	813	795	894	590	539	8700
Totals	2190	2260	2420	2337	2464	2551	2405	2462	2450	2893	2333	2186	28951

RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES

69, Albert Road.—This nursery was opened in July, 1941, and has accommodation for 30 infants and children under five years of age. When this nursery opened it was intended mainly for the children of mothers who were engaged on war work, involving work during the night-shifts. Also the infants of mothers who were admitted to hospital for one cause or another were accepted.

24, Grosvenor Road.—This nursery was opened in May, 1942, and provided accommodation for 17 children. It was intended as a mixed day and residential nursery, but during 1945 it was mainly used for resident children as the situation of the nursery did not lend itself to the day nursery work. The demand for residential accommodation however, decreased considerably during the year and the Nursery was closed in October, 1945.

Both the residential nurseries were administered by the Health Department on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

The average number of children in these nurseries during 1945 is shown as follows:—

<i>Nursery</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
69, Albert Road	21	18	17	17	22	25	23	19	20	22	25	22
24, Grosvenor Rd.	7	10	13	12	14	13	4	13	14	11	—	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births.—Under section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,348 births were notified. Of these, 467 were notified by doctors and 881 by midwives, figures which include 951 births occurring in the Lying-in Hospitals. There were 45 still births, leaving a total of 1,303 live births in the area, compared with 1,504 in the previous year.

Health Visiting.—During the year the following visits were paid:—

To expectant mothers—first visits	57
re-visits	89
To children under one year—first visits	1,085
re-visits	4,195
To children between the ages of one and five years	6,962
To boarded-out children	203
To nurse children	122

Child Welfare Centres.—There are five centres in the town and the attendances made at each of these Centres during the year are shown in the table below. In addition to the normal work, each centre continues to distribute the dried milk and vitamin foods issued by the Ministry of Health. Clerical and other assistance is provided by the Voluntary Child Welfare Committee which continues to provide valuable services for the infant welfare work of the Borough.

NAME OF CENTRE	INFANTS		CHILDREN OVER ONE YEAR AND UNDER FIVE YEARS	
	First Visits	Re-visits	First Visits	Re-visits
Hampton Road	117	2428	5	1317
High Park	140	2077	4	891
Liverpool Road	128	2350	9	1418
Crossens	107	2095	1	809
Hoghton Street	146	2540	19	1336
TOTAL	638	11490	38	5771
Evacuees	4	85	6	45
TOTAL	642	11575	44	5816

Ante-natal Services.—During the year four ante-natal clinics were in operation, three of which were held each week at the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital and one each week at 44, Hoghton Street. The clinics held at the Maternity Hospital were conducted by the Obstetric Specialist in charge of the hospital and during the year 768 Southport mothers were examined and 189 ex-Servicewomen from the hostels.

The central ante-natal clinic, held at Hoghton Street, is attended by those patients who wish to be confined at home, and also by those who are seeking advice as to the best arrangements to be made. The Municipal Midwives are in attendance at this clinic to enable patients to make their bookings for the confinement. The clinic is conducted by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. B. M. Butters, and during the year 155 patients were examined.

Attendances at the ante-natal clinics during 1945:—

	<i>First visits</i>	<i>Re-visits</i>	<i>Total</i>
Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital	957	4308	5265
44, Hoghton Street	155	411	566

Post-natal Service.—A post-natal clinic is held every week at 44, Hoghton Street and all mothers are invited to attend during the four weeks following the lying-in period. The clinic is conducted by the Obstetric Specialist of the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital and 339 mothers attended during the year.

Home Help Scheme.—During the year 18 applications were received from mothers who required the assistance of a home help during their period of confinement, and in 12 cases the help was provided. It has not been possible to develop a satisfactory scheme, however, due to the difficulty of obtaining suitable persons to take up this type of work.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.—The Municipal Midwives delivered 110 cases and made 2,088 visits during the year. They also paid 1,610 ante-natal visits and 1,001 incidental calls. The town is divided into four areas for the purpose of this work and one municipal midwife is resident in each area. The distribution of the cases to each area was as follows:—Area No. 1—29 cases. Area No. 2—30 cases. Area No. 3—21 cases and Area No. 4—30 cases.

The municipal midwives are also in attendance at the central ante-natal clinics which are held each week at 44, Hoghton Street. This system enables patients to make their bookings for the confinement with the midwife for their particular district and co-ordinates the work of the service.

Midwives in Private Practice.—During the year 18 midwives notified their intention to practice as compared with 20 in the previous year. They attended 138 cases as midwives and 149 cases as maternity nurses.

The Supervisor of Midwives made 54 visits of inspection during 1945.

The Maternity Dental Clinic.—This clinic is held at 2, Church Street, and is available for both expectant and nursing mothers. During the year 82 patients made 426 attendances.

BLIND WELFARE

On January 1st, 1945, there were 142 names on the Register of Blind Persons. During the year 8 names were added, one being a new case residing in the town, and 7 transfers from other areas.

During the year 9 blind persons died and 4 were transferred to other areas. On December 31st, 1945, there were 137 persons on the register. Of these, 56 were males and 81 females. Two of these were between the ages of 16 and 21 years, 11 between the ages of 21 and 40 years, 7 in the age group from 41 to 50 years, 42 between the ages of 51 and 65 years, and 75 over the age of 65 years.

The Home Teacher paid 935 visits to blind persons in their homes during the year, and 96 classes in Braille and Handicraft work were held: 993 attendances were made at these classes during the 12 months. Forty-seven social gatherings were arranged.

At the end of the year, 79 persons on the register were in receipt of weekly grants and the total sum expended during the year on this account was £5,477. At the end of the year 11 blind persons were resident in approved institutions.

Thanks are again due to the Transport Department for their kindness in supplying free bus passes for the blind, and also to Miss Mace who has continued her voluntary work for the well-being of the Blind Community in this town.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

From the records for the year 1945 it is known that 55 premature infants were born (i.e., infants whose weight at birth was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less). Of these six were delivered on the district in their own homes by the municipal midwives. Five of these were nursed at home with satisfactory results. One infant weighing 3 lbs. 4 ozs. at birth was admitted to the maternity hospital for six weeks. This infant also survived and progressed satisfactorily.

Forty-nine premature infants were born either in the maternity hospitals or nursing homes. Of these three died within twenty-four hours of birth and eleven within one month of birth. In all cases the mother had received ante-natal supervision.

Of the 55 births, 41 were surviving at the end of the year.

If a premature infant is born at home and the doctor considers that the child can be nursed satisfactorily the child remains at home. If, on the other hand the doctor in attendance considers that the infant should be nursed in hospital then the child is removed to one of the two maternity hospitals. In the latter event the infant is transferred in a special warmed cot which is available for the purpose.

Suitable warmed cots are also available for loan to mothers who are nursing the infant at home.

With regard to premature infants born in the maternity hospitals, the matron of the hospital notifies the Superintendent Health Visitor when a premature infant is ready for discharge and subsequently the health visitor visits and continues to visit as often as is necessary until the baby is of normal weight and progressing satisfactorily. After this stage has been reached the usual routine visits are made as in normal cases.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Cases are usually found before the child is born, by the Health Visitor, Midwife, or the parent may ask for advice at the Health Centre, 2, Church Street. Arrangements are then made for the girl to be examined at the Health Centre Ante-natal Clinic, and if she is to remain at home for the confinement she continues to attend at the Health Centre. If she is to be admitted to the Maternity Hospital she then attends the Maternity Hospital Ante-natal Clinic. If for various reasons it is not possible for the girl to remain at home she is admitted to 79, Albert Road, by arrangement with the Ministry of Health, and can remain there for approximately two months before and two months after the birth of her baby. During this time the Moral Welfare Worker visits her and tries to find if there is any way in which she can help, e.g.:

1. By assisting her to obtain an affiliation order.
2. Interviewing the girl's parents (with her permission) to try and persuade them to make a home for the girl and her baby.
3. Obtaining a grant from a voluntary society for a short period until the girl is able to manage for herself.
4. Assisting the mother to find work and to place her baby in a nursery or with a foster parent.
5. By advising and helping the mother to contact the approved people who deal with adoption, if adoption is desired.
6. By holding out friendship to the girl and trying to help her to re-establish herself.

In Southport at the Health Centre a register is kept of all illegitimate children born in the Borough. Local girls usually have their confinements at home or at either of the Borough's Maternity Hospitals.

A hostel for service girls is at 79, Albert Road. The usual stay here is two months before and two months after the baby's birth at one of the Maternity Hospitals.

The Moral Welfare Worker is a trained social worker, and has had much experience in handling this type of problem. She is employed by the Southport Moral Welfare Committee and a grant of £100 per annum is made by this authority for the use of her services. Mrs. Gravestock works in co-operation and harmony with the Health Visitors.

A meeting is held at the Health Centre once a month, two health visitors attend on rota, and Mrs. Gravestock, with the Superintendent Health Visitor, attend each meeting. Cases are reviewed and decisions are made how best to help in each case. Any action required to be taken between meetings is carried out by the Superintendent Health Visitor and the Moral Welfare Worker contacting each other, and consulting the Medical Officer of Health or Assistant Medical Officer of Health when necessary. A written quarterly report is submitted by the Moral Welfare Worker to the Medical Officer of Health.

The children are visited regularly about every two months by the Health Visitor, and this is continued after the first year at three-monthly intervals until the child is at least nine years of age unless it is in the interest of the child not to do so; the child is then seen in school along with other children when cleanliness inspections are being made.

During 1945 in Southport the following illegitimate births occurred:—

Local Girls	38
Service Girls	187
	<hr/>
	225
	<hr/>

SUMMARY OF ILLEGITIMATE BABIES BORN 1945

	<i>Remained with Parent or Relative</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>Dead</i>	
Southport	32	3	3	} 1 premature, 3 mths. } 1 acute bronch., 5 mths. } 1 gastro enteritis, 2 mths.
	<i>Transferred Home to Relatives</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>L.S.O.</i>	<i>Dead</i>
Service Girls	94	85	2	6
				} 1 pneumonia. } 1 atelectasis. } 1 convulsions. } 1 premature, 3lbs. 10ozs. } 1 br. pneumonia. } 1 marasmus.

CORPORATION HOSPITALS.—Admissions, Discharges, etc., 1945.

Name of Hospital	Type of Patient	No. in Hospital, 31/12/44	Admitted	Discharged	Died	No. in Hospital, 31/12/45
New Hall	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	—	4	2	1	1
	Diphtheria	1	5	5	—	1
	Scarlet Fever	6	74	77	—	3
	Pemphigus	1	3	4	—	—
	Chickenpox	—	34	27	—	7
	Measles	6	23	29	—	—
	Rubella	—	3	3	—	—
	Pneumonia	1	6	5	2	—
	Dysentery.....	—	6	5	—	1
	Whooping Cough	3	28	31	—	—
	Erysipelas.....	—	8	8	—	—
	Mumps	3	26	29	—	—
	Scabies	—	2	2	—	—
	Impetigo	—	1	1	—	—
	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	2	—	—
	Vincent's Angina.....	—	2	2	—	—
	Paratyphoid (Carrier).....	1	—	—	—	1
	Obs. & O.D.	6	91	94	1	2
	TOTALS	28	318	326	4	16
	Tuberculosis	30	39	36	7	26
Fleetwood Road Hospital	Aged and Chronic Sick	68	29	15	25	57
Victoria Home	do.	25	5	4	1	25
V.D. and Skin Hospital	In-patient	—	55	55	—	—
	Out-patient	328	300	241	59*	328
Ormskirk County Hospital (1)	Hospital Wards	74	273	131	122	94
	Pavilion	40	68	50	21	37
Christiana Hartley	Maternity Hospital	22	541	537	2	24
St. Katharine's	Maternity Hospital	10	309	305	—	14
Red House (2)	Maternity Hospital	8	172	180	—	—

(1) Ormskirk County Hospital is administered by the Lancashire County Council.

(2) Red House, closed December 20th, 1945.

* Transfers.

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1945.

Cause of Death	Under one wk.	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Totals Under one mth.	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Premature Birth	7	2	—	1	10	2	—	—	—	12
Inanition	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Pyelonephritis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
	13	2	—	3	18	4	3	2	2	29

Part III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF
THE AREA

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.—The town's supply is drawn from wells and boreholes situated from six to ten miles south east of the town. As the wells and boreholes are all over two hundred feet deep, and, having regard to the nature of the strata (red sandstone) under which the water lies, the possibility of contamination at the source is very remote. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and although hard is exceptionally pure.

The supply to Southport and the surrounding area is provided by the Southport and District Water Board, and there are five pumping stations. Water from all these, with the exception of the Scarth Hill station, comes into the town.

The standard of purity of the water continues to be excellent and samples are submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis every two months, and particulars regarding these examinations in March, 1945, are as follow:—

Chemical Analysis—March, 1945

	<i>Parts per</i> 100,000		<i>Parts pe</i> 100,000
Total solid matter in solution	39·84	Calcium Carbonate	18·0
Oxygen required } in 15 minutes.....	0·013	Magnesium Carbonate	4·6
to oxidise } in 3 hours	0·022	Magnesium Sulphate	9·0
Ammonia	None	Sodium Chloride	4·7
Ammonia from organic matter	None	Sodium and Potassium	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	None	Silicates, etc.	3·5
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None		
Combined Chlorine	2·85	TOTAL SOLIDS	<u>39·8</u>

The water is hard with a temporary hardness of 23·5 parts per 100,000 and a permanent hardness of 7·5 parts. It therefore has a total hardness of 31 parts per 100,000.

Bacteriological Examination—March, 1945

Number of colonies on agar at 37°C. for 48 hours	=	0 per 1 cc.
Number of colonies on agar at 22°C. for 48 hours	=	0 per 1 cc.
B. Coli absent in 100 cc. of water examined.		
Streptococcus faecalis absent in 100 cc. of water examined.		

With the exception of thirteen dwellings all the houses and premises in the town receive a piped supply from the mains. In four of the thirteen exceptions town's water can be obtained from a tap fixed at some distance from the houses. The supply of the remaining nine dwellings is derived from shallow wells. All these houses lie on the extreme outskirts of the borough, and a project is under consideration to extend the mains supply to include them.

Public Baths.—The Victoria Baths are situated near the Pier and adjacent to Nevill Street. There are three sea-water swimming baths, forty-five slipper baths filled with sea and fresh water supplies, two "Zotofoam" and "Pine Bubble" baths, and in addition, a suite of Turkish and Russian Baths.

The sea-water supplied to the baths is treated by the most up-to-date method of filtration, and samples of the bath water from the Plunge Baths, taken from time to time, invariably indicate an exceptionally high standard of purity.

The Baths are open all the year round, and the number of bathers attending during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1945, was 125,685 in the Plunge Baths, Slipper Baths 41,789, Russian and Turkish Baths 4,883, and "Zotofoam" Baths 416.

The Canning Road Baths were opened in 1903 and consist of six slipper baths. The number of bathers attending during the period referred to was 2,616.

The Compton Road Baths comprise ten slipper baths. During the period mentioned 6,110 persons made use of the baths.

A large Open-air Bathing Lake, situated in Princes Park, is available for mixed bathing. The lake is 330 feet in length, with a maximum width of 212 feet. It is filled with filtered sea water and has a water surface area of over 55,000 square feet.

The sea water with which the lake is filled is first stored in settlement tanks so that any suspended matter is deposited. It is then filtered through fine gravel and sand and finally is carefully chlorinated. Before reaching the lake the water is aerated. This process goes on continually so that all the water in the lake passes through the filters and chlorination apparatus once in every $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours. A proportion of fresh sea water, however, is added daily after filtration and chlorination.

Corridor foot baths have been installed in the floors of the corridors from the dressing cubicles to the Pool, thus ensuring that no bathers enter the water without the feet having been rinsed or washed in running water.

Samples of water, taken at frequent intervals throughout the bathing season, show a very satisfactory degree of purity.

Drainage.—The number of properties without a main drainage system connected to the public sewer is 160. Negotiations continued in respect to the drainage of 31 of these premises situated in the Scarisbrook New Road area, and were reaching a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the year.

In two cases legal proceedings were instituted for non-compliance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the bye-laws relating to the cleansing of cesspools. In one case the summons was withdrawn as the occupier gave an order for the work to be done, in the other a conviction was obtained.

Household Refuse.—The work of collection and disposal of refuse is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer. The method of collection used is a combination of the horse and motor collection. Household refuse is disposed of by means of "controlled" tipping on land not otherwise used.

Sanitary Inspection.—The difficulties with regard to supplies of materials still hampered the work of remedying structural defects. 1,386 complaints were received during the twelve months and dealt with. Surveys of premises concerned with the rearing of food animals showed that the animals were being kept under good conditions and only minor supervision was necessary.

Shops.—The administration of the Shops Act is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department. Defects coming under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, found by the Inspectors of that Department, are reported to the Medical Officer of Health for the necessary action to be taken.

Schools.—During the visits made by the District Sanitary Inspectors the standard of cleanliness has been noted to be good. The advice given in former years as to the utmost importance of frequent and thorough cleansing of floors, desks and equipment has undoubtedly proved valuable. In the case of one school, it was found necessary to carry out major repairs to the drainage system. Other minor drainage matters were dealt with efficiently.

Hostels.—The four common lodging houses were regularly inspected by the Department's officers, and two hundred and forty-eight visits were made during the year. The conditions generally continue to be good.

Factories.—Statistical information, compiled in the form requested by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, is shown as follows:—

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	110	3	—
Factories without mechanical power	53	2	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. TOTAL	163	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) {	insufficient	1	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	5	—	—
	not separate for sexes	1	—	—
Other offences	7	7	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL	20	20	—	—

Smoke Abatement.—Seven observations of chimneys were made during the period under review. One chimney was found to be emitting an excessive amount of smoke, and steps were immediately taken to secure compliance with the requirements of the Public Health Act relating to this subject.

Pest Control.—Vermin (Other than Rodents):—

One hundred and seventy-one inspections were made arising from the sixty complaints received regarding pest infestation.

The disinfestation of the premises infested with vermin, other than rodents, was carried out by the owners, the occupiers and, in some cases, by contractors. Infestation was found to be severe in eight instances, and the method of eradication employed was by the use of hydrogen cyanide gas. In the latter cases, the requirements of the Regulations were carried out under the observation of the Sanitary Inspectors, and all the necessary precautions taken.

Rodents:—

Under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, it is the obligation of occupiers of properties to keep their buildings free from infestation by rodents.

The Rodent Control Service, inaugurated on the 6th March, 1944, as a result of the responsibilities assumed by the Department under the Infestation Order, 1943, functioned efficiently.

The services of the Rodent Operator are available upon application by the occupiers of infested premises, payment being based on a schedule adopted by the Local Authority.

The following Table shows the work carried out under the scheme:—

Month	YEAR 1944					YEAR 1945				
	Inspections	Complaints rec'd	Applications for service	Results of measures taken		Inspections	Complaints rec'd	Applications for service	Results of measures taken	
				Estimated kill	Bodies found				Estimated kill	Bodies found
January	—	—	—	—	—	195	18	1	47	6
February.....	—	—	—	—	—	165	14	3	117	19
March	265	59	5	*	*	170	10	7	273	39
April	164	33	6	*	*	186	20	8	259	62
May	181	23	6	271	87	168	13	2	379	56
June	139	23	3	120	18	121	14	6	627	42
July	204	13	7	100	22	153	18	5	117	27
August	170	21	3	256	24	183	7	3	106	57
September	171	27	9	167	26	187	27	10	122	70
October	175	24	6	205	13	137	22	2	138	40
November	217	20	7	191	42	173	31	5	134	53
December	134	10	1	375	31	120	16	4	127	51
TOTALS	1820	253	53	1685	263	1958	210	56	2446	522

* Included in the total for May, 1944.

It should be noted that the figures as to the estimated destruction of rodents are based on the calculations made by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Food, and include the number of bodies found.

Additional to the applications for the services of the Operator, included in the above Table, three contracts were entered into for the destruction of rodents in 1944 and four in 1945.

No infestations of the sewers were reported during 1945, thus confirming the outcome of the sewers token treatment campaign carried out in 1944, when 451 manholes were baited with negative results. The work referred to was undertaken under the supervision of Miss Rowlands, of the Headquarters staff of the Infestation Branch of the Ministry of Food, and Mr. F. Greenhalgh, Divisional Rodent Inspector of the Ministry.

The Workable Area Committee of representatives of Local Authorities and the Ministry of Food, set up in 1944, of which the Chief Sanitary Inspector is a member, continued its very useful activities.

Summary of Visits.—During the year the total number of visits made by the inspectors was 24,929, including those classified as follows:—

(A) District Inspection:—

(1) Routine:—

Inspection on complaints	1,386
Miscellaneous inspections	8,862
Re-inspections relating to sanitary defects under notice, etc.	1,771
Special property inspections	2

(2) Visitation *re* Remedy of Sanitary Defects:—

Amendments of drainage systems	89
Provision of sanitary accommodation	86
Abatement of miscellaneous nuisances	1,182

(3) Inspection of Special Premises:—

Factories (including bakehouses)	163
Hostels (common lodging houses)	248
Premises used as stables	11
Premises used for statutory scheduled trade purposes	160
Dairies	628

(B) Smoke Abatement:—

Observations	7
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(C) Pest Control:—

Inspections <i>re</i> rodent infestation	1,958
Inspections <i>re</i> other vermin infestation	171

TOTAL	16,724
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Nuisances.—The number of schedules of cases recorded for abatement was 1,473.

The usual verbal request for the abatement of nuisances found was made in each case, but in 411 instances it was necessary to serve Notices, as follows:—

Preliminary	390
Statutory	21

In addition to the two cases referred to in the paragraph headed "Drainage," legal proceedings were instituted, under the provisions of the Public Health Act, against three property owners. The Magistrates made an Order, in each case, for the abatement of the nuisance reported.

Infectious Diseases.—The following information gives an indication of the duties performed:—

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Inquiries into cases	1,421
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	321
Houses Disinfected	247
Bedding Disinfected (344 loads)	688
Schools Disinfected	4
Miscellaneous	1,110
Special Disinfection Scheme (192 loads)	384
TOTAL	4,175

HOUSING.

1. Number of inhabited houses	23,604
2. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts).....	1,475
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,246
(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,377
3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1,356
4. Action under statutory powers during the year:—	
A.—Proceedings under the Public Health Act:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	21
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3
B.—Proceedings under Sections 9 to 12, Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	Nil

(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the houses for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil
(5)	Number of persons displaced as a result of action under (1) to (4) above	Nil
(6)	Number of dwelling houses made fit:—	
	(i) as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12	Nil
	(ii) as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12	24
5.	Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding:—	
(1) (a)	Number of houses overcrowded	3*
(b)	Number of persons dwelling therein	42

* This figure represents only additions to the list of houses previously reported as being overcrowded. It was not possible to undertake any extension of the survey taken in 1944.

Part IV.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Visits of Inspection

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
Abattoirs	673
Butchers' Shops	2,539
Fish and Poultry Shops	1,259
Provision Shops	2,636
Potted Meat and Fish Works	332
Ice Cream Works and Stalls	99
Cafe Kitchens	135
Piggeries	119
Cowsheds	79
*Other Premises	334
TOTAL	<u>8,205</u>

* Includes 112 visits to inspect the carcasses of pigs slaughtered on private premises; 218 visits to obtain samples for bacteriological examination (211 of milk, three of tinned meat, and four of Town's water); and visits to secure four samples of Town's water for chemical analysis.

Food Sampling.

Three hundred and eighty samples of seventy-one varieties of food were taken, and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. The results showed that three hundred and forty-three were genuine, and thirty-seven were not genuine; the latter included seven formal and thirty informal samples.

All the samples certified as not genuine were followed up, and appropriate action was taken, including legal proceedings in one case. Full details were forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

Details recorded during the past twenty-five years illustrate well the need for constant vigilance by the Department in this work.

Year	Number of varieties of foods sampled	Number of samples taken			ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF SAMPLES						Ratio (%) of samples adulterated	Number of prosecutions
					Number genuine			Number adulterated*				
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
1921	59	143	73	216	130	64	194	13	9	22	10.01	8
1922	44	142	59	201	129	52	181	13	7	20	9.95	2
1923	47	135	65	200	128	58	186	7	7	14	7.00	3
1924	48	118	65	183	110	63	173	8	2	10	5.46	3
1925	45	118	67	185	116	60	176	2	7	9	4.86	—
1926	52	142	60	202	128	58	186	14	2	16	7.92	4
1927	51	130	70	200	121	69	190	9	1	10	5.00	—
1928	51	142	60	202	123	60	183	19	—	19	9.04	11
1929	50	142	57	199	130	51	181	12	6	18	9.04	3
1930	55	146	73	219	136	69	205	10	4	14	6.39	4
1931	63	127	95	222	122	79	201	5	16	21	9.45	5
1932	73	118	105	223	108	103	211	10	2	12	5.38	1
1933	70	195	106	301	175	101	276	20	5	25	8.30	3
1934	68	177	108	285	173	101	274	4	7	11	3.85	—
1935	68	198	108	306	179	100	279	19	8	27	8.82	7
1936	47	212	112	324	198	100	298	14	12	26	8.02	3
1937	69	201	151	352	185	139	324	16	12	28	7.95	1
1938	65	213	169	382	198	131	329	15	38	53	13.87	1
1939	69	203	158	361	183	131	314	20	27	47	13.01	2
1940	83	181	182	363	156	161	317	25	21	46	12.67	9
1941	96	161	212	373	146	197	343	15	15	30	8.04	11
1942	90	168	199	367	161	184	345	7	15	22	5.99	2
1943	68	172	191	363	157	156	313	15	35	50	13.77	9
1944	75	178	203	381	163	178	341	15	25	40	10.49	6
1945	71	75	305	380	68	275	343	7	30	37	9.73	1
	TOTALS	3937	3053	6990	3623	2740	6363	314	313	627	8.96	99

* Certified by the Public Analyst as being adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity.

Milk.—On the register are the names of ninety dairymen, of whom thirty-nine are also cowkeepers.

Of the 236 samples of milk submitted for analysis during the year, sixteen were certified as not genuine.

As regards the bacteriological examination of this commodity, two hundred and eleven specimens were procured, one hundred and sixty-one from local producers and the other fifty from producers outside the Borough. The bacteriologist reported that two of these specimens, one from a local producer and one that had been obtained from a producer outside the Borough, had been found to be tuberculous. The necessary action was taken in both cases.

Sale of Milk under Designation.—Details of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, and in force during the period reviewed:—

Classification	Number
A.—Producer’s licence authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” in relation to milk produced from a herd, and bottled on the producer’s premises in the Borough	1
B.—Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” in relation to milk sold by retail from the holder’s premises in the Borough	1

C.—Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation “Accredited” in relation to milk sold by retail from the holder’s premises outside the Borough	2
D.—Pasteuriser’s licence authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” in relation to milk treated by the pasteurising process at the holder’s premises	5
E.—Supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” in relation to milk sold by retail from the holder’s premises in the Borough	1
F.—Dealer’s licence authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” in relation to milk sold from the holder’s premises	19
G.—Dealer’s licence authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” in relation to milk sold from the holder’s premises	3
	<hr/>
TOTAL	32
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Veterinary Service.—The Tuberculosis Order, 1938, imposes upon the Veterinary Inspectors working under the direct instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the duties of dealing with any bovine animal which is, or is suspected to be, affected with tuberculosis.

During the year 458 clinical examinations were made by the Veterinary Inspectors, with the following results regarding bovine animals:—

<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>Number</i>
Tuberculosis of the udder.....	1
Induration of the udder	1
Mastitis	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL	3
	<hr/>

All notifications are followed up by the Department, and an Inspector visits the places concerned in order to prevent any infected milk being used for human consumption.

FOODS (other than Milk)

Apart from milk, the samples which were not genuine included cake and pudding mixtures (seven), biscuit mixture (one), cake flour (one), junket powder (one), egg substitute powder (one), table dessert (two), ice cream powder (one), chocolate spread (one), gravy mixture (one), gravy “thickener” (one), mixed herbs (one), and tinned foods (three).

FOOD INSPECTION

The incessant demand during the year for extractive substances for commercial and industrial purposes, continued to be on such a large scale as to make it absolutely essential to maintain the temporary practice of salvaging all classes of materials, and the departure from the policy, so firmly established formerly, of destroying all unsound food, had to proceed.

The remarks made in the last Annual Report regarding the prolonged storage of certain kinds of food, under very exceptional conditions, together with the abnormal circumstances under which transport had to be maintained, continued to apply during 1945, and problems of a type requiring the constant attention of the Department, arose during the period under review.

In view of the abnormal circumstances which persisted throughout the year it must again be emphasised that the amount of food rejected as unfit for human consumption could not be considered to be unsatisfactory.

Particulars of all such food have been duly recorded.

Three specimens of tinned meat were submitted for bacteriological examination. The report showed the meat to be in a satisfactory condition.

Number of Carcases Inspected and the Results of such Inspection during the year 1945.

Abattoirs, Poplar Street.

PARTICULARS	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed	3075		2917	14147	224*
Number of carcases inspected	3075		2917	14147	224*
RESULTS					
All diseases except tuberculosis:—					
Number of whole carcases condemned	—	3	7	20	1
Number of carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	647	98	5	1207	20
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	24.32		0.41	8.67	9.37
Tuberculosis only:—					
Number of whole carcases con- demned	8	25	—	—	2
Number of carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	440	184	—	—	6
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	21.69		—	—	3.57

* Including 112 pigs killed on private premises.

The condemnations of whole carcases shown in the above table were due to tuberculosis (thirty-five), oedema (twelve), peritonitis (nine), septic pericarditis (one), septicaemia (two), pyaemia (two), fevered (three), and moribund (two). All the animals, except five of those affected with tuberculosis, were brought into the abattoirs from outside the Borough.

Part V.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria.—Only five cases of this disease were notified during the year and all were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Three were of school age and two between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five. Of these five, two were due to an atypical Gravis type of organism, one a Gravis type, and two a mites type. Two of the three children had been immunised, one twelve months and the other two years prior to the illness, but in neither case was the result checked by a schick test. The three other cases had not been immunised. One adult, however, had suffered from Diphtheria in infancy and the attack was modified with no membrane formation.

All five cases reacted well to treatment.

Cases admitted for observation proved to be suffering from the following complaints.

Scarlet Fever	1
Tonsillitis	18
Vincent's Angina	2
Chronic Sinusitis	1
Peritonsillar abscess	1

Immunisation.—At the commencement of 1945 the percentage of the child population protected against the disease by immunisation was as follows:—

Under five years of age.....	39%
Ages five to fifteen years	85%

During the twelve months 923 children under five were immunised and 269 children from five to fifteen years of age, a total of 1,192.

The state of immunisation at the close of the year was:—

Under five years of age	45%
Ages five to fifteen years	93%

Scarlet Fever.—93 cases were notified, of which 74 were removed to the Isolation Hospital during the year.

One case, a boy aged $2\frac{1}{2}$, was admitted with Tracheal obstruction and required the performance of Tracheotomy. The obstruction was considered to be due to a retro pharyngeal abscess and the boy made an uninterrupted recovery. The other cases admitted were of a mild type and none of the cases admitted to hospital developed acute otitis media.

Enteric Group.—A death occurred in the Southport Infirmary of a girl aged 20 who received surgical treatment on account of acute peritonitis. The general appearance of the small intestine was such as to suggest a diagnosis of enteric ulceration. No organisms of the typhoid group were isolated, the diagnosis being made on the microscopic appearance. The case was fully investigated to exclude the possibility of "carrier" infection but no possible source of infection could be found. The diagnosis though possibly justified by the evidence available, must be accepted with some reserve.

Undulant Fever.—No cases were notified.

Chickenpox.—274 cases were notified, and 34 cases were removed to hospital. The incidence of this disease compared favourably with the previous year when there were 326 cases.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum.—Three cases occurred and were successfully treated without impairment of sight.

Puerperal Fever—Puerperal Pyrexia.—Ten cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, of which two were admitted to hospital. In one the rise in temperature was due to localised cellulitis and the patient was transferred to the Southport Infirmary for surgical treatment. The other was a patient on whom caesarean section had been performed with subsequent infection of the area of incision. Both cases were discharged cured after treatment.

Dysentery.—Twenty cases were notified and of these six were admitted to hospital. Of those admitted to hospital five were verified by the recovery of the organism which in each case proved to be of the sonne type.

Erysipelas.—26 cases were notified and eight were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. The results of treatment were satisfactory.

Measles.—The number of cases notified as suffering from measles during the year was 546 as compared with 741 in the previous year. One death was ascribed to this cause.

Twenty-three cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

German Measles.—Fifty-two cases of German measles were notified as compared with 230 in 1944. Three of these cases were admitted to hospital.

Whooping Cough.—278 cases were notified during the year and 28 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Of the two deaths caused by this disease during the year one occurred amongst the cases admitted to hospital and was due to broncho-pneumonia in a child of two years of age.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—Four cases were notified and all were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. One death occurred in the Isolation Hospital of a boy aged 13 years. No treatment appeared to have any effect and the boy died within forty-eight hours of admission.

One further death was due to this disease, an infant aged one month. This child was admitted to the Southport Infirmary and was treated there. No notification was received in respect to this case.

VENEREAL DISEASES

At the end of the year 1945, 328 persons were under treatment at the Southport Venereal Diseases clinic in Curzon Road, as compared with the same number at the close of the previous year.

46 patients suffering from syphilis for the first time were treated during the year as compared with 50 such cases last year.

91 patients in their first year of infection with gonorrhoea were treated as compared with 88 in the previous year.

A total of 7,851 attendances were made at the out-patient clinics as compared with 7,821 during 1944.

The following table shows the classification of all new cases dealt with during 1945:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	16	30	46
Gonorrhoea	55	36	91
Non-Venereal	51	90	141
Cases transferred from other clinics	3	3	6
	<u>125</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>284</u>

Five infants suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum were admitted and were discharged completely cured without complications. One maternity case was dealt with in the department, a mother suffering from syphilis, she was subjected to treatment with the result that her baby was healthy and free from disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year notifications totalled 95, of these 69 were of persons suffering from pulmonary disease and 26 from non-pulmonary disease.

Deaths during the year totalled 41, out of these 36 were due to pulmonary disease, 19 being males and 17 females.

	Males		Females		Total
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	
PULMONARY	19	3	17	—	36
NON-PULMONARY—					
Meninges.....	1	—	—	1	5
Abdomen	—	—	—	—	—
Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—	—
Peripheral Glands	—	—	—	—	—
Other organs	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	20	3	17	1	41

The following table gives details of deaths covering the last ten years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000	Cases	Death Rate per 1,000
1936	33	0·42	8	0·10	38	0·52
1937	34	0·43	6	0·08	40	0·52
1938	25	0·32	9	0·11	34	0·43
1939	40	0·49	7	0·09	47	0·58
1940	24	0·27	9	0·10	33	0·37
1941	38	0·40	7	0·07	45	0·47
1942	37	0·41	9	0·10	46	0·51
1943	50	0·59	8	0·09	58	0·68
1944	27	0·33	6	0·07	33	0·40
1945	36	0·44	5	0·06	41	0·50

At the end of the year there were 346 cases on the Dispensary Register.

The attendances at the Dispensary during the years 1939 to 1945 were :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
<u>952</u>	<u>1025</u>	<u>1136</u>	<u>1169</u>	<u>1340</u>	<u>1358</u>	<u>1199</u>

The Dispensary work is still carried on at the clinic at 44, Hoghton Street, premises which are not satisfactory as pointed out in the last report. Contacts of cases continued to attend, and 127 came to the Dispensary during the year to be examined.

Thirty patients received either local or general sunlight treatment during the year and the results, particularly those with the Kromayer Lamp, were good.

New Hall Sanatorium.—40 patients were admitted, 37 discharged and 7 died.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment was given to 13 patients during the year and the number of refills given was 1,060.

The liaison established with the Lancashire County Authorities continues and major surgical treatment of Southport patients is carried out in the larger County Sanatoria, whilst the County Thoracic Surgeon has visited New Hall to do thoracoscopies.

During the year three patients had operations for adhesions.

In view of the shortage of nurses, the necessity for the provision of increased accommodation at New Hall for pulmonary tuberculosis gives reason for concern. During the year cases for admission have had to be selected as before, and many who require accommodation have not been provided with it.

During the year, 478 X-ray films were taken. The old 1929 X-ray plant has had to be carefully nursed but in spite of this has been out of use whilst under repair on three occasions. Apart from the heavier work required of it in taking X-ray films the machine has been used well over 2,000 times in the lighter work of screen examination of patients and it now appears to be necessary to instal a new plant.

The arrangements with the County for the treatment of non-pulmonary cases continues, two patients being admitted to Wrightington and four to Leasowe.

Patients requiring minor surgical treatment for non-pulmonary disease are often referred to the Southport Infirmary.

Care Work.—Extra nourishment in the form of milk and cod liver oil preparations is issued to necessitous cases.

The Tuberculosis Care Committee continues to do most valuable work, and during the year, apart from the provision of money, clothing and other necessities to the value of £267, several households were assisted in other ways.

The Seal Sale resulted in the addition to the funds of £245.

T.B. Allowances.—The system of payment of tuberculosis allowances to pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases continued as last year and works very well.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED Ages in Years							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD																
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards	Central	Craven	Hesketh	Marine	Park	Scarisbrick	South	Sussex	Talbot	West	Birkdale East	Birkdale North	Birkdale South	Birkdale West	Ainsdale	Total No. of cases re-moved to Hospital
Diphtheria	5	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	5
Erysipelas	26	—	—	—	2	6	12	6	2	1	3	1	6	—	1	—	—	4	1	3	3	1	—	3
Scarlet Fever	93	—	11	69	8	4	1	—	1	6	15	6	6	9	5	5	3	9	6	2	10	6	4	74
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Chickenpox	274	4	67	180	15	7	1	—	13	10	18	16	23	6	25	25	13	24	20	12	34	27	8	34
Measles	546	16	219	288	18	5	—	—	15	25	169	13	43	80	24	71	15	7	7	11	22	16	28	23
German Measles	52	2	13	25	11	—	1	—	2	1	3	—	5	6	3	3	—	2	6	1	14	3	3	3
Whooping Cough	278	19	158	93	3	4	1	—	9	13	31	10	20	18	21	26	12	16	18	9	27	26	22	28
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	81	2	10	15	9	17	13	15	2	2	16	14	4	4	4	7	4	1	1	2	7	3	10	6
Malaria	27	—	—	—	4	23	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	20	—	1	4	5	6	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	6
C.S. Meningitis	4	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	4
TOTAL	1421	46	481	679	82	78	33	22	45	65	259	92	111	124	85	141	49	64	60	41	122	84	79	194

Part VI.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

(The Thirty-Seventh Annual Report of the
School Medical Officer)

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

The coming into operation of the 1944 Education Act has had an effect on all aspects of the school medical service, which include:—

- (1) Routine Inspection, at appropriate intervals, of pupils in attendance at any school or county college, maintained by the local education authority.
- (2) Medical examination of children over two years of age to ascertain whether they require special educational treatment on account of disability of mind or body.
- (3) Making of such arrangements as are necessary for securing that comprehensive facilities for free medical treatment are available under the Act or otherwise, for pupils in attendance at any school or county college maintained by the local authority.

The Southport School Medical Service has for many years been carried out on lines which are similar to those now envisaged; expansion, rather than revolution, is now due to be introduced, further groups of children being eligible for supervision and free treatment, and some of the more specialist services which have been arranged for individual children through a variety of means, now having to be provided on a definite financial basis.

(1) Routine Medical Inspection.

Arrangements as to medical inspection of pupils must now be such that:—

- (a) Every pupil who is admitted for the first time to a maintained school shall be inspected as soon as possible after the date of his admission;
- (b) Every pupil attending a maintained Primary School shall be inspected during the last year of his attendance at such a school;
- (c) Every pupil attending a maintained Secondary School shall be inspected during the last year of his attendance at such a school.

This grouping is in contrast with the previous “entrant,” “eight-year-old” and “twelve-year-old” groups. As 1945 was a year of transition in the formation of modern secondary schools, arrangements were made to examine certain age-groups so that by the end of the school year, in July, 1946, the service would be in a position to introduce the new inspection age-groups, without any substantial number of children having been missed.

All schools in the area, with the exception of the Grammar Schools, were visited for the purposes of inspection. As in previous years, every pupil not listed for inspection, was examined prior to the doctor's visit by the school nurse, and any who appeared to be physically or mentally handicapped, under-nourished, under-clad, or otherwise in need of special consideration, were brought before the medical officer. The number was 878. This survey of all children was introduced during the war years as an extra safeguard for the children, particularly those who were away from home. It has proved of great value, and the practice has recently been favourably commented on by one of the Medical Officers of the Ministry of Education, who advised that it should be continued.

The numbers in whom full routine medical inspection was carried out were as follows:—

Primary Schools:—

Entrants	895
Leavers	241

Secondary Schools:—

Leavers	595
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Findings at Routine Inspection.

Nutrition.—The sample of children in whom a definite assessment of nutrition was made, showed little change from the samples of former years. 90% fell into the normal group. Of those seen in the survey, the same impression was gained. There can be no doubt that the provision of extra feeding, particularly in the matter of additional milk, has made a very valuable contribution to the state of nutrition of growing children during a period when the feeding of a family has been a matter of great anxiety and unremitting toil, to many parents. It is of interest to notice how many more parents have thought it worth while to pay for *two-thirds* of a pint of milk, and to ask whether the children so catered for, will get less milk when the uniform allowance of one-third of a pint free for all, comes into force.

Nutrition Table.

	<i>Children examined during the year</i>	<i>Percentage</i>			
		<i>A. (Excellent)</i>	<i>B. (Normal)</i>	<i>C. (Slightly sub-normal)</i>	<i>D. (Bad)</i>
1945	1,731	4·7	90·0	5·5	0·12
1944	1,852	6·4	88·4	5·1	0·11
1943	2,693	8·0	85·4	6·3	0·07
1942	1,437	4·5	81·2	14·4	—
1941	1,983	7·8	84·5	7·6	0·15
1940	2,749	7·6	83·4	8·7	0·29
1939	1,812	10·3	82·9	6·7	0·11
1938	2,221	8·1	83·6	8·1	0·18

Provision of School Meals and Milk.

Number of Children receiving Meals and/or Milk on one particular day in October, 1944 and 1945.

		1944	1945
Number of Children receiving:—			
Dinners	(free)	210	236
„	(paid)	2,214	1,728
Sandwich	(free)	31	14
„	(paid)	605	747
Milk	(one-third pint) (free)	749	86
„	„ „ (paid)	5,251	2,953
„	(two-thirds pint) (free)	392	248
„	„ „ (paid)	422	2,174

Parents present at Inspection.—Before the war the number of parents who were sufficiently interested and free to attend at the inspection was rising continuously and had reached 65% for all ages. In 1945 in the primary schools 61% of the parents were present, but in the modern secondary schools only 13% of the parents were present at the inspection. This is, of course, not surprising, as so many mothers are at work, but it does limit the usefulness of the examination, and it is to be hoped that the custom of the parent attending at the older ages will be resumed when possible.

Refusal of Examination.—At one time some parents, or their children through them, refused inspection on very flimsy grounds. In 1938, 35 children were thus denied the benefit of being examined. In 1945 there were only four cases of this kind. The 1944 Act gives added powers, for dealing with cases in which the parent does not comply with the requirements.

Clothing and Footwear.—The state in which these are found at inspection or survey, are also indications of the care which is given to the child. Unsatisfactory clothing is comparatively rarely found, and the level at which it has been kept during the difficult years, is a great credit to the parents.

Footwear has been more difficult still, and many children are found wearing shoes which by their worn condition, are a menace to health. 1·2% had bad shoes, compared with 0·3% before the war.

Cleanliness.—Bodily cleanliness should now be able to be taken for granted among children under constant supervision at school, but as 1% of those examined were found in a state which could not be considered satisfactory, it is evident that care is still necessary. It is to be hoped that a return to better conditions of housing will have its effect.

The position with regard to cleanliness of the hair is far from what it should be, and education of parents in this matter is the only sure way of getting a lasting improvement. At routine inspection, 8·9% in primary schools, and 15·8% in modern secondary schools, had nits in the hair. The higher number at older ages suggests that it is when the children, particularly the girls, get some freedom from their mothers' supervision, that matters are allowed to get worse, and the teaching of personal hygiene at these ages is evidently very much needed. At the general cleanliness inspection carried out by the school nurses, some schools or departments showed very bad figures—girls' departments having as many as 25%, 26% and even 30% uncleanly. In the clinic and in children's institutions, newer methods of cleansing, and of keeping the hair clean, have had considerable success. Lethene oil, and D.D.T. emulsion are both valuable in many cases, but do not replace the effect of constant care which can be put into practice only in the home.

Percentage of Children Found at Routine Medical Inspection with Nits in the Hair.

1938	1944	1945
<hr/> 6·0	<hr/> 8·6	<hr/> 11·2

Summary of Cleanliness Examinations, December, 1945.

	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Nits	78	2·6	348	11·4	426	7·0
Verminous	13	0·4	48	1·6	61	1·0
Clean	2,949	97·0	2,646	87·0	5,595	92·0

During the year, Health Visitors paid an average of 5·9 visits of inspection per school. They made 6,082 first inspections and 13,622 re-inspections of children known to require careful supervision.

Vaccination.—In spite of several smallpox scares in recent years, the child population remains largely unvaccinated; 25% of those inspected had been vaccinated at some time.

Percentage of Children Found to Require Treatment.

<i>Group</i>	1945
Entrants	17·5
Primary Leavers	15·8
Secondary Leavers	21·1
Total	<u>18·2</u>

Routine Dental Inspection in Schools.—During the year sixteen primary and secondary schools were visited by the school dentists. The grammar schools (Girls' High School and King George V) were also visited, this being the first time the dental staff had visited the grammar schools to examine the children. All children from the nursery classes upwards were inspected and they responded fairly well to appointments made for treatment. At the Routine Dental Inspection in the schools 5,257 children were examined and of these, 3,267 were found to require treatment. The total number of attendances at the dental clinic during the year was 6,678.

(2) Ascertainment of Children requiring Special Educational Treatment.

Ascertainment of handicapped children, unsuited to the ordinary teaching in County schools, has tended to fall short in recent years partly owing to the increased calls on the medical staff for other duties, and partly owing to the lack of facilities for special teaching. Stress is laid in the new Act, however, on the necessity for this special provision, and with increased facilities will go renewed efforts at finding the precise nature and extent of a child's educational disability. In the past it has frequently been difficult to get parents to agree to a handicapped child leaving home, but in less serious cases, special educational treatment may now be arranged for in ordinary schools.

Investigation of any child referred by parent, teacher, or other interested person, for an opinion as to whether special treatment or teaching is required, will usually involve firstly examination by a member of the school medical staff, followed in some cases by a further specialist examination. Although the arrangements whereby specialist services can be called on require to be regularised, and made more definite, in practice it has been possible, with few exceptions, to get the necessary opinion, and to decide what special educational facilities are required. The most notable exception is in the case of the maladjusted child, as child guidance arrangements are certainly lacking in the area.

There is also great difficulty in regard to the *provision* of special education for children who are known to require it, as the majority of special schools have long waiting lists, and vacancies occur but seldom. The position cannot well be rapidly improved until additional special teachers and house staffs are trained.

The several categories of pupils requiring special educational treatment are as follows:—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Ascertained in 1945</i>	<i>Previously known to Dept.</i>	<i>In Special School</i>
Blind	—	—	—
Partially sighted	—	—	—
Deaf	2	4	4
Partially Deaf	1	1	—
Delicate	10	29	3
Diabetic	1	—	—
Educationally Subnormal	11	24	16
(not yet fully ascertained: 14)			
Epileptic	2	4	2
Maladjusted	(not	ascertained)	
Physically Handicapped	1	24	10
Suffering from Speech Defect	16	24	—

(3) Arrangements for Treatment.

So far as the clinics held at the Health Centre are concerned the arrangements have not been substantially altered. These day to day clinics at which the less complicated forms of treatment are skilfully carried out by trained staff, fill a need in any scheme of medical treatment, particularly among children, which cannot well be met otherwise. There is no doubt that the treatment given early and often prevents many cases from requiring hospital services later, while at the same time it would be impossible to get the skill of the trained nursing staff privately.

In 1945 a time-table was drawn up for attendance at the nurses' treatment clinic, which aimed at minimising the loss of school time—those absent from school coming early, while the patients from school come towards the end of the afternoon. The scheme has had considerable success and is welcomed by the teachers.

Some idea of the amount of work passing through the hands of the medical, dental and nursing staffs is given by the following table:—

	<i>Southport.</i> 1945	<i>Evacuees.</i> 1945
Nurses' Treatment Clinic	10,721	1,008
Minor Ailment Clinic	2,788	167
Skin Clinic	1,040	102
Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic	185	2
Ophthalmic Clinic	596	31
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	2,824	26
Aural Clinic	1,438	114
Nasal Clinic	879	37
Dental Clinic	6,451	227
Immunisation Clinic	482	—

Minor Ailment Clinic.—This is largely an inspection clinic and serves as a channel for directing those needing more specialised forms of treatment. It also serves to follow up cases after routine medical inspection and to allow of supervision of certain classes of handicapped children. The numbers attending are still high, 2,788 attendances were made by Southport children in 1945, and it will probably become necessary shortly to increase the service by opening clinics in the outskirts of the town.

Sixteen cases were referred to the Southport Infirmary for the opinion of a consultant.

Skin Clinic.—This clinic is still more necessary than it was before the war, largely on account of the number of cases of scabies, still either in the community or constantly being introduced into the area.

	<i>First Examinations,</i> 1945		<i>Re-examinations,</i> 1945	
	<i>Southport</i>	<i>Evacuees</i>	<i>Southport</i>	<i>Evacuees</i>
Ringworm of the Scalp	—	—	1	—
Ringworm of the Body	6	—	6	—
Scabies	93	17	153	23
Other Conditions	435	38	462	32

134 Southport children and 26 evacuees, as well as 134 adults were diagnosed as suffering from scabies during the year. 110 children were admitted to the Skin Department in Pilkington Road with various types of skin disease.

Eye Clinic.—Three clinics per fortnight were held: 193 new Southport cases were seen, and 403 attendances made for revision of glasses. 31 evacuees also attended. Two cases requiring further treatment were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Southport Infirmary.

The service requires to be developed in the matter of orthoptics by the appointment of a half-time orthoptist.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.—Operative treatment on tonsils and adenoids is carried out by Mr. Courtenay Yorke, who comes from Liverpool when a session is required. There were eight sessions in 1945 at which 151 children were seen, and in 96 cases operation was performed.

Treatment of Aural disease and general advice on nose and throat conditions have been continued at a weekly session, by Dr. MacDougall. 140 new cases attended and 213 re-attendances were made. Two cases were referred to the Southport Infirmary for a second opinion.

Nasal diastolization.—Courses of nasal diastolization were given to 83 children. Persistent nasal catarrh, without sinusitis, is greatly benefited by the treatment. Where adenoids have been removed a course of treatment often completes the cure.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.—Total attendances at this clinic were 2,824. 814 of these attendances were made by school children for conditions other than tuberculous glands, mainly rheumatism, chorea and debility.

Dental Clinic.—

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist:—

(a) Routines	5,257
(b) Specials	1,218
	<hr/>
Total	6,475

(2) Found to require treatment	4,323
(3) Actually treated	2,869
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	6,678
(5) Half-days devoted to Inspection	65

Treatment of Other Conditions.—

(a) **Orthopaedics.**—Twenty-six new orthopaedic cases were sent to the Southport Infirmary for advice and treatment, largely out-patient. Great benefit was obtained in a number of cases from attendances at the rehabilitation department. Many of the cases were, however, in the early stages of deformity, and parents, not perhaps realizing their importance, were reluctant to allow the child to miss schooling daily, over the long periods required for care. Treatment for this type of case requires to be very much expanded, but as the children concerned are often otherwise healthy, much of it might be arranged out of school hours.

More definite arrangements for in-patient treatment, in specialized departments if possible, are due to be made.

(b) **Tuberculosis.**—Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the less serious cases of tuberculous glands can be treated locally in hospital, but the more serious gland cases and bones and joints have generally speaking to be admitted to special schools in other areas. Provision in a local special school would very often be preferable, particularly from the parent's point of view.

Ten notifications of tuberculosis in children of school age were received. Of these one was localised in the lungs and the others in bones and joints or glands.

(c) **Delicate Children.**—This is a varied group, including cases of asthma, bronchiectasis, rheumatism, chorea and children who for some reason do not stand the rigours of ordinary school life. Ascertainment of them is known to be incomplete, but reference to the Table on page 50 shows that the majority of such children are unprovided for, and that their number is considerable. Special local provision of this kind will have to be considered as soon as possible.

Infectious Disease.—There was no major outbreak of infectious disease among school children.

Notifications were as follows:—

	<i>Southport.</i> 1945	<i>Evacuees.</i> 1945
Measles	236	2
Rubella	13	1
Scarlet Fever	51	4
Chicken Pox	141	—
Diphtheria	2	—
Whooping Cough	58	1
Tuberculosis	10	—

The number of cases of diphtheria was almost at vanishing point, and must bear some relation to the immunisation campaign. At the end of the year 93% of children between 5 and 14 years of age had been immunised. The way in which parents have voluntarily accepted this treatment for such a high percentage, is the best testimonial to its harmlessness and efficacy.

MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOL MEDICAL WORK

Examination of Boarded Out Children	14
For Scholarships	238
For admission to Higher Schools	119
For admission to Institutions	14
For admission to Training Ship	1
Examined regarding Malnutrition	3
For admission to Children's Sanatorium	31
For Free Meals and/or Milk	41
Entertainments	3
Forms completed for Adoption	3
Admission to Residential Nursery	50
Children Notified to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority	4

